

America proposal would have consolidated dozens of programs into block grants and handed over responsibility, without the necessary resources, to the states. As one of my colleagues recently stated, "their bill is about who gets the problem, not how to fix the problem".

The Deal bill does not make children suffer for the shortcomings, real or imagined, of their parents. The bill does not require that States deny benefits to teen mothers or their children, but the bill does require, however, that teen mothers live with a responsible adult and that the teen mother stay in school.

The Deal bill also retains the guarantee that abused and neglected children will receive foster care and adoption assistance.

There has been a lot of talk about the abuses in the Supplemental Security Income Program [SSI]. The Deal bill attempts to get at the abuses in the program without harming the medically disabled children the program was established to assist. And perhaps most importantly, the bill retains the decisionmaking power on how to care for a disabled child with the family, not with a State bureaucrat. In contrast, the Republican bill would deny cash benefits to 700,000 disabled children in the SSI Program.

This is welfare reform that is tough, but fair. It promotes work, provides States with the resources to design effective programs, and provides protection for our children. At the heart of the Democratic welfare reform bill is work—at the heart of the Republican welfare reform bill is shifting responsibility, not resources to States. The Democratic bill represents real welfare reform that does not take from our children to pay for tax cuts for the rich.

TED W. MYATT RETIRES

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, on March 31, Ted W. Myatt will retire after almost 19 years as Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Houston, TX. Since August 1, 1976, when Ted became director, he has served the veterans of southern Texas with resolute dedication and sound leadership.

Theodore "Ted" W. Myatt was born and reared in Johnson County in north central Texas. He graduated from Decatur Baptist College and received his Juris Doctor degree from Baylor University Law School in 1955. He served as an enlisted man in the 2d and 5th Armored Divisions of the U.S. Army in 1948 and 1949. Ted served two terms in the Texas House of Representatives, 1956–59, representing the 61st Legislative District—Johnson, Hood, and Somervell counties. He served as county judge of Johnson County from 1959 to 1964. Ted resigned in 1964 to accept an appointment as deputy chief counsel, Area Redevelopment Administration, Department of Commerce, here in Washington. He later joined the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington as a staff attorney in the Office of the General Counsel.

Ted returned to Texas with the VA serving as chief attorney and district counsel at the Waco Regional Office from 1968 to 1976, at

which time he was appointed Director of the Houston Regional Office. This is one of VA's largest regional operations covering the southern half of Texas and American veterans residing in Mexico.

One of Ted's many extraordinary accomplishments is the development of the state-of-the-art regional office now being constructed on the grounds of the VA medical center in Houston. For the major part of his directorship, Ted worked unceasingly to secure approval and funding for this collocation project. Ted was committed to ensuring that regional office employees would be housed in a modern, stimulating work environment before he left the VA. In spite of many challenges and difficulties, Ted, with the help of many in central office, the area field director's office, and his own employees, finally achieved success.

This facility is the first to be developed by a private developer under the "enhanced use" legislation signed into law a few years ago. Collocation of VA regional offices on the campus of VA medical centers is a goal I have personally supported for many years. Ted has kept me advised of his progress from the beginning and, when I last visited Houston, gave me a tour of the site. The facility will be dedicated later this year, and the veterans of southern Texas will be the beneficiaries of this facility for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, to show their appreciation for the outstanding leadership of Ted Myatt, the current and former employees of the regional office will dedicate the conference room in the new building in Ted's honor. What better gesture could be made of one's worth and value. Ted has always been known for his strong support for those who work under his direction, and this wonderful gesture clearly demonstrates his staff's affection and respect for Ted.

Mr. Speaker, Ted Myatt has been one of VA's very best regional office directors. Respected for his integrity and professionalism, Ted has testified before our committee many times, and those of us serving on the Veterans' Affairs Committee have greatly benefited from his counsel. We shall miss him.

Ted has two children, Wade Barkley Myatt of Bryan, TX, and Jeanne Melissa Myatt of Houston. Ted's lovely wife is the former Ana Proa of Gonzales, TX. As he leaves the Department of Veterans Affairs on March 31, we wish for him, Ana and the family, much happiness and the very best always.

SOMERSET COUNTY CELEBRATES ITS BICENTENNIAL

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, the history of the United States has been built on the western expansion of its population. The young days of the Republic saw ambitious men and women looking westward for opportunities which did not exist on the eastern seaboard. But the first obstacle they saw as they looked west was the Appalachian Mountain Range.

As settlers began the trek westward in the late 1700's, the difficulties they encountered were enormous. Many died; many turned back. But just as many persisted, and commu-

nities began to be established in the fertile lands west of the first range of the Appalachians. One area which attracted settlers was on a high plateau between two ranges of the Appalachians, and in 1795, Somerset County, PA was established.

In 1995, Somerset County is celebrating its bicentennial. The hard-working citizens of this area have seen many changes and challenges over the past 200 years, but the early pioneering spirit of the people who founded Somerset County can still be found there today. This spirit has led to vibrant communities throughout the county, proud of their heritage, but also looking forward to a bright future.

Travelers on the Pennsylvania Turnpike know Somerset as an exit high in the Pennsylvania mountains. Driving by, they see a magnificent county courthouse in the Borough of Somerset, and a spot to break up the trip to points east and west. But getting off the highway and traveling through the county would introduce them to many historic communities located in the beautiful Pennsylvania highlands which offer a great deal in terms of recreation and friendliness. As Somerset County, PA celebrates the 200th anniversary of its founding, I would like to offer my congratulations to its citizens as they move forward into a third century of work and growth, and invite my colleagues to come experience the celebrations planned to take place all summer long.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR KATHRYN NACK

HON. CARLOS J. MOORHEAD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mr. MOORHEAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Kathryn Nack of Pasadena, CA, upon her retirement from a distinguished career in public service. Mayor Nack has been a member of the Pasadena City Council since 1987. She was elected by her colleagues as vice mayor in May 1992 and as mayor in May 1994. Prior to her service on the council, Mayor Nack was a member of the Pasadena Board of Education from 1979 to 1987, serving as the board's president for three terms. And from 1975 to 1979, she served as a member of the Pasadena Planning Commission.

During her 20 years of serving the citizens of Pasadena, Mayor Nack has been a leader on many issues, most notably in the area of children and families. In Pasadena, she was the driving force behind the development of the ground-breaking Pasadena Family Policy, and as a board member of both the League of California cities and National League of Cities, Mayor Nack's expertise was often highlighted in organizational panel discussions and workshops on the local government role in providing services to needy children and families. Her extensive knowledge of this subject has contributed heavily to Pasadena's reputation as a leader in the delivery of human services.

As a result of her dedicated public service, many people in my district may not realize that Mayor Nack is an architect by trade and became a pioneer among women in that profession. While in college in her native Texas, she was chosen as 1 of 100 female math and